

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 39, 42, 44-45, 63, 66, and 68-69 have been amended to correct informalities, thus providing the claims with proper antecedent basis.

20. (Previously presented) A method of conferencing, comprising the steps of:

retrieving a set of one or more data objects from a host computer, wherein said data objects represent a character;

processing the set of data objects in a storage device, the storage device located at a respective user site and having a storage system for data object storage;

operationally attaching a display system to at least one storage device;

operationally connecting the user site into the conference;

selecting a data object from the set of data objects and transmitting a control signal to

indicate the selected data object; and

receiving the control signal and displaying the selected data object on the display system

in response to the control signal.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects having a graphical representation.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving a set of data objects of at least one of common data objects and private data objects.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the character is an ASCII character.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are image data.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the image data are selected from the group consisting of Joint Photographic Experts Group (.JPG), graphic interchange (.GIF), and fractal image compression (.FTC).

26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are video data.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the video data is in full multimedia file format (.MPG).

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are text.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the text is one of standard ASCII text (.TXT) and Microsoft rich text (.RTF).

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are computer aided design (CAD).

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are drawings.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 31, wherein the drawings are in the file format .BMP.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are spreadsheets.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the spreadsheets are in the file format .XLS or .WK1.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are word processing files.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the word processing files are in the format .DOC.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are slide presentations.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein the slide presentations are in the file format .PPT.

39. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of, at a respective user site, transmitting and receiving [a]another signal to and from other user sites.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, operationally connecting the user site into the conference via a wide area network, wherein the wide area network comprises an Internet network.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, operationally connecting the user site into the conference via a wide area network, wherein the wide area network comprises a satellite network.

42. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the receiving step further comprises;

storing the received control signal[s];

subsequently retrieving the stored control signal[s]; and

displaying the selected data objects in response to the retrieved control signal[s].

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42, wherein the retrieving and displaying steps occur non-simultaneously at each user site.

44. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 20 further comprising the steps, at a user site, of:

recording the control signal[s] to produce a recorded control signal[s];

playing the recorded control signal[s]; and

displaying selected data objects on a display system in response to the recorded control signal[s].

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the control signal is a voice communications signal.

46. (Previously presented) A method of conferencing, comprising the steps of:

- retrieving a set of executable data objects from a host computer;
- processing the set of data objects in a storage device, the storage device located at a respective user site and having a storage system for data object storage;
- operationally attaching a display system to at least one storage device;
- operationally connecting the user site into the conference;
- selecting a data object from the set of data objects and transmitting a control signal to indicate the selected data object; and
- receiving the control signal and displaying the selected data object on the display system in response to the control signal.

47. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving a set of data objects of at least one of common data objects and private data objects.

48. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are image data.

49. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 48, wherein the image data are selected from the group consisting of Joint Photographic Experts Group (.JPG), graphic interchange (.GIF), and fractal image compression (.FTC).

50. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are video data.

51. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein the video data is in full multimedia file format (.MPG).

52. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are text.

53. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 52, wherein the text is one of standard ASCII text (.TXT) and Microsoft rich text (.RTF).

54. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are computer aided design (CAD).

55. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are drawings.

56. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 55, wherein the drawings are in the file format .BMP.

57. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are spreadsheets.

58. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein the spreadsheets are in the file format .XLS or .WK1.

59. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are word processing files.

60. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the word processing files are in the format .DOC.

61. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the step of retrieving further comprises retrieving data objects that are slide presentations.

62. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 61, wherein the slide presentations are in the file format .PPT.

63. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 46 further comprising the step of, at a respective user site, transmitting and receiving [a]another signal to and from other user sites.

64. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 46, operationally connecting the user site into the conference via a wide area network, wherein the wide area network comprises an Internet network.



65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, operationally connecting the user site into the conference via a wide area network, wherein the wide area network comprises a satellite network.

66. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the receiving step further comprises;

- storing the received control signal[s];
- subsequently retrieving the stored control signal[s]; and
- displaying the selected data objects in response to the retrieved control signal[s].

67. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 66, wherein the retrieving and displaying steps occur non-simultaneously at each user site.

68. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 46 further comprising the steps, at a user site, of:

- recording the control signal[s] to produce a recorded control signal[s];
- playing the recorded control signal[s]; and
- displaying selected data objects on a display system in response to the recorded control signal[s].

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 68[69], wherein the control signal is a voice communications signal.